

New-York Daily Tribune  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1865.  
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To Advertisers.  
The New-York Tribune has a circulation larger than that of any other newspaper, and a large proportion of its subscribers take it for other journals. The space in this sheet allotted to advertisements is necessarily limited, so that each has the advantage of being early seen, and all are generally read with as much interest as new-comers. There is—no one who has not heard of it—no advertising medium in the country so cheap, because there is none so profitable, to the advertiser. The paper circulates among the industrial and mercantile classes, the Farmers, Manufacturers, Merchants and Dealers, the country—and is carefully read in it. It is read every week by not less than half a million of the most intelligent of the people. He who makes his business, his merchandise or his means known to this immense number, scattered all over the loyal States, cannot fail to do so to his own manifest and great advantage.  
Advertisements on the fifth page are \$1.50 and on the eighth page \$1. A line for this week's insertion must be paid for today.

To Correspondents.  
No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Wherever intended for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a security for his good faith. All business letters for this office should be addressed to "The Tribune," New-York.  
We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.  
The Tribune in London.  
STEVENS PROFILES, Agents for Libraries, 1, Strand, London, W. C. Agents for the sale of THE TRIBUNE. They will also receive Subscriptions and Advertisements.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The steamship Asia, which left Liverpool on the 26th and Queenstown the next day, arrived at Halifax yesterday, bringing two days later news from Europe.  
The shore end of the Atlantic cable was landed, and connection made with the land instruments on July 22, in the presence of a large concourse of people. Enthusiastic speeches were made by Sir Robert Peel and others, and three cheers were given for the Queen and President Johnson. Two miles had been paid out to sea.

Six hundred and twenty-six members elected to the House of Commons show 233 Liberals and 273 Conservatives. The Liberal gains will reach 21. Mr. Walker of the London Times was defeated in Berkshire. The two colleagues of Mr. Gladstone in the representation of South Lancashire are Conservatives.  
Constance Kent, having pleaded guilty of the murder of her brother, has been sentenced to death, but it was generally believed that the sentence would not be executed.

The French *Mouleur* denies that Abd el Kader has been expelled to any post in Algeria.  
The cholera had almost entirely disappeared from Alexandria, Egypt, and was decreasing in Constantinople.  
The story that Gen. Kirby Smith was taken prisoner, with his 400 companions, by the Mexican Government, turns out to be untrue. The General arrived safely at Monterey, and after resting a few days, pushed on for the City of Mexico.

GENERAL NEWS.

Jacob Crosse, late Deputy Provost-Marshal, was shot dead in the street in Bedford, Pa., yesterday by John P. Reed, a lately returned Canadian refugee. His brother, Miguel Reed, who has been in the Rebel army, was also engaged in the affray. They were arrested and lodged in jail.  
The revenue steamer Kankakee arrived here yesterday, with U. S. S. Andrews and J. O. Shaw on board. These gentlemen have made a tour of inspection among the various ports South, as special Treasury Agents, and report everything ready for the resumption of Custom-House business.

There are not more than 2,000 patients in the various Government Hospitals in Washington and neighborhood. Nearly all of them are now being vacated, and the patients concentrated at Army-square, Douglas and Stanton Hospitals.  
A Mrs. Starkweather and daughter were found murdered in their beds, at Oakland, near Hartford, yesterday morning. Speculation rests upon her son, Albert, as the murderer. A sum of money—\$100—was found in his possession.

The story that Gen. Robert E. Lee is at Niagara Falls is probably based upon the presence there of another General of the same name. The late Rebel chief is in Virginia, at some quiet retreat up the country.  
The United States Military School in Philadelphia has been closed in consequence of the cessation of the War. The school has furnished 500 officers for colored troops, free of expense to the Government.

A gentleman, just returned from a Southern tour, reports that only the editors, preachers and politicians of the old State rights school still adhere to the idea of Southern independence.  
The population of Newborn, N. C., before the war was only 6,000; it is now 30,000—the largest city in the State. The health of the city was never better than at present.

The man supposed to be John H. Surratt, who has been for several days reported as en route for Washington, passed through Harrisburg yesterday under a strong guard.  
A number of persons prominent in the late Rebellion, who have been at Washington several weeks waiting to see the President, have left the city without being gratified.

The Rebel Gen. Dick Taylor has returned to Washington from Fortress Monroe, where, it is understood, he had an interview with his brother-in-law Jeff. Davis.  
The President received no visitors yesterday, nor was any Cabinet meeting held, in consequence of his suffering from a bilious attack.

The *Daily Union Banner*, published at Salisbury, N. C., has been suspended for the publication of diabolical sentiments.  
One hundred and two pardons were granted yesterday, all to persons coming under the \$30,000 clause.

The total appropriations of the last Congress will amount to \$820,000,000 in round numbers.  
The increase of population in Boston since 1850 is 14,302.

Gold opened yesterday at 144, sold up to 145, and closed at 145. Government stocks are lower without exception. In railway bonds and bank shares little doing. The railway share market was very feverish. Money is less active, and at 7 per cent all loans are readily made. Six per cent loans are left untouched, and among mercantile houses there is no demand for best to fair money, and 10 per cent required 60 to 90 per cent for best to fair money, and 10 per cent for second rate. Exchange is dull and favors the buyer decidedly. Freight is dull and heavy and prices somewhat nominal.

We issue, this morning, a Supplement in addition to our regular edition, in which will be

found full returns of Taxes paid on all incomes of \$5,000 and upward in the nine Revenue Districts embracing this city and Brooklyn. It is the first full report that has been published, and great care has been taken to make it accurate.

In the Supplement also, and on the first side, will be found interesting articles upon the suburbs of New-York, local intelligence, and art criticisms.

HOW A POOR MAN MAY LIVE AND TAKE A NEWSPAPER.

Several poor men, living by their own honest labor in the interior of Wisconsin, unite in a letter to the Editor of THE TRIBUNE, wherein they say:

"We find that the prices of all kinds of goods and of newspapers are increasing, so that it seems impossible for those who have no other resource than their own labor to live and take a paper. Will you please advise us as to what we shall do?"

—To which we respond as follows:

I. It is a mistake that the money prices of Food, Clothing, and Newspapers, are now increasing. On the contrary, the general tendency of prices, since the close of the War, is downward; and it is certain that those prices will fall rapidly as our returned soldiers are re-absorbed into the great army of Producers and as our Currency appreciates. As yet, our returning soldiers have not generally gone to work; or, if they have, the fruits of their industry have not begun to be realized. For years, we, as a people, have largely devoted our energies to War—that is, to destruction, instead of production. Necessarily, products have steadily grown dearer and dearer. This would have been the case had our Currency remained sound; and tendency to high prices has been aggravated by Paper inflation and consequent depreciation. Having finished the War, stopped burning warehouses, wagon-trains, bridges, granaries, &c., &c., we know that we have touched bottom and are now coming up. When we shall have paid off and discharged One or Two Hundred Thousand more of our soldiers and sailors, we shall have reduced our National expenditures below our current receipts, and then we can very speedily and rapidly appreciate our Currency, so that a dollar with us will be about equal to five French francs or four British shillings, as it was and should be. This will bring down prices an average of thirty or forty percent, below those now prevailing. But, even with Gold at 40 to 46 per cent premium, we have already reduced the price of THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE, so that it can be bought to-day for less labor or farmers' produce than it could be before the War began. And we hope, as the Currency appreciates, to reduce it still further to cents.

To subscribers who take it simply, it is now nominally as cheap as and really cheaper than ever before the War.

II. We labor and hope for a Currency appreciation that will reduce the nominal prices of Food and Clothing; but this will not specially benefit the Poor, since their wages will generally fall with the premium on Gold and the prices of Products. He who now gets \$14 per day for work, will receive but \$1, or a little more, for such work at the same season when the greenback dollar shall have been made equal to a gold dollar; but then the dollar will buy nearly as much food or cloth as \$14 does now. Yet it is well to have our Currency conformed and anchored to the universal standard of value, which is Gold.

III. But, whether the Currency shall so be appreciated sooner or later, or even though it should be fully restored to soundness to-morrow, or had never been depreciated at all, it is certain that living will, for the poor, in the average, be less easy in this country for some years than it was before the War. We have been destroying property to an enormous amount, and the nation is poorer by the sum of its value; we have for years been hiring and paying (or promising to pay) an average of One Million Men to do that which was indispensable, but which produced no bread and butter; and we have thereby run in debt some Three Thousand Millions of Dollars, of which we must pay the principal some time, and the interest at all times. We of the cities, and especially men of large incomes, have to shoulder the heavy end of the load; but all our people, whether rich or poor, must help carry it, live where they may. Hence we know and should never fail to consider that more industry or greater economy must henceforth be evinced by the Poor than formerly. This is the fact; let us look it square in the face. Taking our country through, a hundred days' labor in whatever capacity will not buy so much Food and Clothing since the War as it did before; and this state of things must continue until either we shall have paid off our National Debt or until the progress of Invention and Machinery shall have overbalanced that Debt by making American Labor in the average considerably more efficient than it was in 1860.

Such are the facts to be confronted: Now for the course to be pursued by the Poor with reference thereto:

IV. Waste of Time is a form of improvidence common among the Poor. Few poor men could suppress amazement if enabled to look back through the last ten years and perceive the number of days through which they were idle when they might and should have been at work. Very many of the poor have evinced no foresight respecting and made no provision for work in inclement weather or in case of a sudden failure of their current vocation. In cities and villages, too many of them are always ready to unite in "Strikes," which secure them an idle spell to the certain detriment of their own and the public interest. Some of them will even assault and maim others who accept the work that they persistently refuse. There is scarcely one able-bodied poor man in a hundred who might not increase his earnings ten to twenty-five per cent, by simply resolving and planning that, come what may, he will never lose a day wherein he might usefully and gainfully work.

V. Systematic frugality is not sufficiently studied nor practiced by the Poor. Many live miserably who might enjoy comforts if they

knew how to make the best use of their means. At least one-quarter of the food of the poor in this country is wasted by bad cookery; yet nothing is systematically done to make the daughters of the poor of to-day better cooks than their mothers. The food spoiled or thrown away by a hundred poor families here would support half that number in comfort in France. How to make a quarter of beef or a carcass of mutton supply the most palatable nourishment to a family, is just what every American girl should learn, yet what not one in a hundred ever thinks of, and those who do are mainly of the wealthier class. The poor (like the rich) eat far more animal food than is good for them; and this is the most expensive of all food. We drink a sufficiency of hot beverages, especially coffee, to corrode the gizzards of a million ostriches, and then wonder that we are so often unwell. We ought to grow and consume bushels of various fruits around every dwelling out of the great cities; yet we have not even a grapevine by one house in twenty of the broad region wherein grapes luxuriantly grow. In short, we have not yet begun the study of systematic household economy; and now we can no longer postpone it without serious discomfort to millions. Let us delay no further.

VI. The poor men of this country, we estimate, spend an average of \$20 each per annum in pernicious luxuries—Alcoholic Liquors, Tobacco, &c. Supposing them Five Millions in number, here are One Hundred Millions of Dollars squandered for what does them no good whatever, but a great deal of harm; while the time they lose by drinking and dissipation is of at least equal value. This is far more than all the burden cast upon them by our great War.

—We will thank our Wisconsin friends to ponder these hints, and try the economies they suggest for one year to come. If, at the close, they find themselves unable to pay for THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE, we will send it the next year for nothing.

PROTECTION OF CITIZENS.

The following General Order has been issued by Col. Charles Bentzon, commanding at Helena, Arkansas:

HEADQUARTERS OF EAST ARKANSAS, HELLENA, ARK., July 7, 1865.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 20.—I. To prevent the recurrence of outrages on the persons of colored people by their former owners and other ill-disposed persons, it is hereby ordered that the Superintendent of Freedmen of this District will bring all such cases coming to his knowledge before the Provost-Marshal in the form of charges, and the Provost-Marshal will try the case in the manner prescribed for Field Officers' Courts in the Army; the punishment to be inflicted by this Provost-Marshal will be limited to one month's confinement with or without hard labor, or a fine equal to one month's earnings of the accused, or both. The proceedings will be held before the Colonel Commanding, and if approved the sentence will be executed immediately.

II. Should the Provost-Marshal, after a preliminary examination, find that the punishment as limited above is inadequate to the offense, he will not proceed with the trial, but he will refer the charges with his indorsement thereon back to the Colonel Commanding, and the accused will be brought before a military commission.

III. Colored men are free in all cases to choose their own employers; but after a contract has been made, and approved by the Superintendent of Freedmen, they will be required to keep to their part; but all employers are prohibited from taking the law into their own hands under any circumstances, but the Superintendent of Freedmen will hear complaints against employers, and if necessary bring them to trial before the Provost-Marshal.

IV. It is held that all former slaves have been free since the 1st of January, 1863, and where they have been restrained from their liberty the parties who have employed them since that time will be required to pay them back wages at the rate established by Orders No. 9, dated Vicksburg, Miss., March 11, 1864, and signed by order of the Secretary of War, L. Thomas Adjutant-General, and in case of non-compliance, the Provost-Marshal will try the case, and, after approval by the Colonel Commanding, payment will be enforced by the Provost-Marshal.

V. It is expected that the people will see their own interest and also that of their former servants by treating them like free men in every respect, and thereby sustaining in good faith the laws, proclamations and policy of the United States Government.

By order of Col. CHARLES BENTZON.  
W. H. C. JAGGS, First Lieut. and A. A. G.

—Here is one military commander who evidently believes that Slavery is abolished and that black men are citizens. The order, it will be observed, is dated nearly a month ago, and must, long ere this, have come to the knowledge of the War Department for approval or disapproval. Whether it has been thought proper to rescind it or not, we do not know. The question of back wages, which the order assumes to be due those former slaves who, since January, 1863, have been restrained of liberty by their late masters, has also been raised in Virginia, and a decision will, doubtless, be made upon it. Should it be in favor of the Freedmen and payment enforced, there will probably be some changes in the ownership of real estate at the South; for many of the planters have nothing else wherewith to pay the accumulated wages of two years and a half.

But, however that question may be settled, Col. Bentzon clearly raises no new one and establishes no new principle in the three first sections of his Order. As things have been and are still managed at the South, the Order is a bold one; but as it is simply just, the error is not in his having issued it, but that others, with similar authority, have neglected to do so. Col. Bentzon bases his action upon the Abolition of Slavery. Slavery being abolished, the relations between master and slave, as such, exist no longer. Both are equal before the law and each is entitled to precisely the same protection in life, liberty, and property. Before the law, they are not white men and black men, late masters and late slaves, but simply men, to be protected in all their rights. Not recognizing this new state of affairs, the White men have committed outrages upon the Blacks, and it is simply "to prevent the recurrence of these outrages" that Col. Bentzon thinks it necessary to warn the whites that they can no longer be perpetrated with impunity. The necessity of such notice we have no doubt existed at Helena, for we know there is a good deal of ill feeling, and because it is not promptly met, and that protection extended to the Blacks which is theirs by right, that society is still disorganized at the South, that the whole land lies fallow, and labor is denied its just reward.

It is in this order that the Southern people may read the lesson they have yet to learn. It is not simply that with the Abolition of Slavery the ownership of the negro ceases. All the relations of master and slave cease as well. It is not a question of superiority of races, but the

question of equality before the law. The black is no longer somebody's "nigger," subject to the irresponsible will of his master, but a man in whom the law recognizes the rights belonging to the citizen. The more humble and more ignorant he is, the more careful will a just Government be to accord to him its most thorough protection. A black man, under the slave-code, was assumed to be a slave, until the contrary was proved, and had small protection from the law even in the few rights that were recognized as his. In the new order of things, color has nothing to do with the question of his rights. That is settled by his citizenship; and, as he is amenable to the law, so in his person the law is to be respected as in the highest of the land. The people of Helena are in a fair way of learning this simple but important truth, and the sooner the whole South recognizes it the earlier shall we reach that blessed condition of reconstruction about which there is a good deal of vague talk and not a little vague action. Should Col. Bentzon's order receive the sanction of the War Department, and a similar rule in regard to "outrages" be enforced in all the insurrectionary States, the people will begin to understand that Slavery has really passed away.

DEATH OF RICHARD HILDRETH.

The death of Richard Hildreth is announced by recent European advices to have taken place in the City of Florence on the eleventh day of July. His health, which was always delicate, had been in a precarious condition for several years past, and after his appointment to the Consulate at Trieste, upon the accession of President Lincoln, it had become so much impaired as to disable him in a great measure from performing the duties of the office. He retired from the post more than a year ago, and since that time the inroads of disease had made such havoc with his constitution, even, to a certain extent, eclipsing the admirable powers of his intellect, that his departure from the world presents no occasion for surprise. With a highly excitable nervous temperament, and almost incredible habits of mental labor, and facility of literary execution, his physical strength at last yielded to the burden of his responsibilities, and for a considerable time past, he had led the weary life of a confirmed and incurable invalid.

Mr. Hildreth had just completed the fifty-eighth year of his age, at the time of his death. He was born June 23, 1807, in Deerfield, Mass., his father, an eminent clergyman of the Congregational order, being then preceptor of the flourishing academy in that village. He early displayed an eager thirst for learning, and neglected the natural sports of his age for the enticements of books. In 1822 he entered Harvard College, where, after the usual course of four years, he was graduated with high honors. After leaving college, he completed the regular course of legal studies, and was admitted to the bar; but finding a more decided vocation to the pursuit of letters than to the practice of law, he quitted the profession in order to devote himself to authorship. At the commencement of his literary career, he was a frequent contributor to the leading Boston magazines, and in the year 1832, he became an associate editor of the Boston "Atlas," a celebrated political journal for many years, of which he was one of the original founders. His articles in the columns of the "Atlas" at once attracted public attention. They were remarkable for the vehemence of their tone, the closeness of their reasoning, their elaborate historical illustrations, and the point and vigor of their diction. If strongly partisan in their spirit, it was impossible that they should have been otherwise. Mr. Hildreth was not born to steer skillfully between conflicting opinions. His mind was less distinguished for balance than for decision. His nature was too earnest, too sincere, too integral, we may say, to permit any half-way element in its composition. His perceptions were clear, his convictions of an iron strength, and he hated compromise. His love of controversy was also innate and genuine; it had the force of a passion; he scented the battle afar off; he rushed into it with tingling blood and heart on fire; if he had no quarrel of his own to fight for, he was always ready to throw down his gamut in the quarrel of another.

He continued his connection with the "Atlas" until the Autumn of 1834, when he was led by the state of his health to seek a residence in a Southern climate. Remaining on a plantation for about eighteen months, he devoted his leisure to the composition of "Archy Moore," an anti-slavery novel, of which an enlarged edition was subsequently published under the title of the "White Slave." This was succeeded by a translation from the French of Dumont's abstract of Bentham's "Theory of Legislation" (1840), a "History of Banks," "Despotism in America," "Theory of Morals" (1844), and "Theory of Politics" (1853). Mr. Hildreth's principal literary work was the "History of the United States" (1849-56), in six octavo volumes, embracing the period between the earliest colonial settlements and the second term of President Monroe's administration. The composition of this work had been a favorite purpose with Mr. Hildreth for many years before its actual commencement. His study of American history, without reference to the original sources in public records and other manuscript authorities, had been extensive, if not profound; his habits of research were methodical and accurate; and his fidelity to what he deemed the true functions of the historian was vigilant and alert. The merits of his history, therefore, are undeniable, and rest upon a substantial basis. The narrative is simple and unadorned, the facts are usually sustained by probable evidence, and the estimates of character, if somewhat prejudiced at times, are certainly honest and sincere. But taken as a whole, the history does not render full justice to the nature of the theme, or the intellect of the author. It evinces little sense of artistic symmetry, and no moral enthusiasm whatever. The enterprise of the Pilgrims is related as if it had been a mere trading adventure. No sympathy with their character or purposes is expressed. In general, the pages of the work are not enlivened by

any glow of inspiration. It shows no fervor of imagination in the remembrance of noble examples of human worth, no curious felicities of description, no charm of rhetorical embellishment. Even the legitimate graces of historical writing are for the most part absent, and the narrative is almost as meager and barren of attraction as the catalogue of an auctioneer. Mr. Hildreth himself, though his temperament was not, in any eminent degree at least, poetical, was ardent in his feelings, and by no means destitute of imagination. The dryness of his history, we have no doubt, was with him a matter of principle. He cherished a mighty scorn for all the airs of authorship, by which a shining coat of varnish is made to cover ingrained defects of substance. He believed that the refinements of taste were not called for in the relation of facts; and hence he tells the story of Puritanic devotedness and heroism, with more than Homeric simplicity and with nothing of Homeric eloquence.

For several years previous to his acceptance of the consulate at Trieste, Mr. Hildreth had been a resident of New-York. His connection with this journal is probably known to many of our readers. His regular and frequent contributions to our columns were of a strongly-marked character, and needed not the addition of his name to secure their identification. He was always ready with the productions of his pen, always knew what to say, and always seized the happy moment of saying it. He possessed, in a very rare degree, the qualities of facility and promptness so essential to the efficiency of a conductor of the daily press. His industry was a perpetual marvel, even to men who are supposed to know how to work diligently themselves. He seemed never to indulge in an idle moment. He was not the one to celebrate the praises of leisure. With him, mental labor was not only a recreation, but a passion. He was never at a loss for a subject, never at a loss for the method or matter of its proper treatment. His memory was capacious and exact. He appeared to have all the resources of history at his command. His knowledge of American politics, of legislation, and of legal decisions was both extensive and accurate. His mastery of expressive language never failed him. If a pretender were to be set aside, or any other nuisance abated, he was the man to do the work. At the same time, he studied politics as a science, and loved to ascend to first principles in the discussion of its most exciting themes.

In his personal character, Mr. Hildreth, we believe, had the credit of habitual austerity, perhaps even of a certain degree of moroseness. His manners, it is true, were not conciliatory. He had no soft words to throw away upon bores and drivellers. He did not hesitate to express opinions which he was aware were disagreeable to the hearer. He had no morbid love of gaining friends, no cowardly fear of making enemies. He always wished to express himself honestly, and took little heed to the consequences. Still, to those who knew him intimately, though never a paragon of gentleness and acquiescence, he daily revealed a disposition of true modesty and sweetness. The roughness of the chestnut bur could not conceal from them the bland and well-flavored kernel. In the various relations of private life, he was without fault, unless such may be deemed his freedom from selfishness, which gave him no passport to popular favor, and impeded his worldly success.

EASY, THERE!

For two or three bloody, wasteful years, our Government honestly, earnestly, patiently, tried to put down the Slaveholders' Rebellion without hurting Slavery. The experiment failed, thanks to God and to our Copperhead Generals—it failed because it could not and should not succeed—failed as would an attempt to form a coalition of the Pope, the Sultan and the Chinese Emperor, and divide the world between them. We regarded the attempt with growing impatience and dissatisfaction while it was in progress; but now we are glad it was made.

Its final successor is the present effort to "reconstruct" a loyal South and leave out the negro. We know how it will result, but not when. Awaiting its denouement in patient expectancy, we would caution those who are running the machine against too frequent and too palpable intermeddlings with its operation. Don't rein your nag up so tight that he can't possibly go ahead! Your seed won't germinate—it isn't that kind—but, even if it were, digging it up every day or two would leave it no chance to sprout. Let it lie till every one can see and none can doubt that it is very dead indeed. By and by, you will comprehend that Rebels will vote in every State—that to prevent this is beyond your power—that your only choice lies between neutralizing that vote and succumbing to it. It is not wise to bring the ex-Rebels up with a round turn the moment they get as they think. Give them rope! When you have tried out your experiment fairly, and summed up the result in State after State, you will be ready to look further; but halting trying it will satisfy nobody, and only produce general dissatisfaction.

President Johnson deserves the thanks of the tax-paying public for abolishing one office—that of Navy Agent at Washington—and remitting its duties to a paymaster, at a saving of some thousands to the Treasury. We hope he may be encouraged to persevere in this course. There are still offices of far greater utility to the holder than to the public, and we hope to see them abolished or razed as rapidly as may be. Congress ought to take the subject in hand next Winter; but meantime we trust that the President will improve every chance to reduce, if by a little only, the weight of our public burdens.

The recent allotment of offices in Philadelphia and Baltimore strikes us, in the main, eminently just and wise. Mr. William B. Thomas, the Philadelphia Collector, was opposed by most of the official magnates of Pennsylvania; but he was "the right man in the right place," and the President decided to keep him there. Mr. Thomas, we hear, has given all

his salary throughout the last four years to raise volunteers and sustain in every way the War for the Union. In Baltimore, the success of Collector Webster is represented as a "Blair triumph," whence we infer that he will prove worthy and efficient. The Blairs prefer that sort.

WEST POINT.

We learn one thing from the report of the Board of Visitors at West Point. The boys who go to that Academy are neither better nor worse than other boys who go to school. There is a large class of people who believe that some supernatural agency hovers around West Point, and that the scholars who have the advantage of its tuition become by a mysterious process heroes and statesmen. The report shows that West Point does not enjoy this blessed dispensation. It is simply an ordinary school, and its pupils are ordinary scholars. To be sure, West Point gave us Sherman and Grant and Sheridan, but it also gave us Buell and McClellan and Fitz John Porter; and before we had West Point, there were Caesar and Bonaparte and Frederick. We think it will be found in this military academy, as in other schools of learning, that of a hundred boys, one or two may have genius, a dozen talent, and the rest ability enough for respectable mechanics. Education may improve, but it does not radically change them; and, in looking at this school as a national institution, we must lay aside the absurd notions that have been possessing our minds. West Point is simply a school of learning, specialty, engineering and military tactics. The boys who go there are merely boys. They sweat, and "haze," and drink, and are not attentive to morning prayers. In the war, they have shown about as much ability as Harvard and Yale—but with the exception in their favor that Harvard and Yale boys were sent into the ranks to carry a musket and rise, while the West Point gentlemen were carefully uniformed, and begirted with swords, and taught to believe that they belonged to a privileged class. They began with promotion. The others ended with it.

The war also has illustrated the fact that West Point boys fight as well as any other boys, but no better. The complaint we have to find with it, therefore, is that our military rulers have a tendency to isolate, and elevate, and make its scholarship the test of advancement, a military shibboleth, without which no one can pass into the road that leads to distinction. It has a large staff of officers—snug, easy, attractive sinecures; and here all the military petes are sent to rusticate, to draw large salaries, and teach the young gentlemen around them that the army is theirs; that they are born to command. Hence, West Point has become the representative of all that is slow and anti-progressive and decaying in our armies. When it proposed to conquer the Rebellion, it gave us to understand from the beginning that it would conquer it in its own way; that it was going to fight the South with gloves; that its wars were to be book-battles, and that the Southernners were gentlemen to be assailed tenderly, gently, and with a purpose to kill as few as possible, and, above all things, to hurt nobody's feelings. So West Point began by forbidding the Hutchinsons to sing Mr. Whittier's songs, and placing guards around the Rebel corn and cattle. No one knows where we would be now if a spirit greater than West Point had not driven it to the very front. Sherman and Grant represent regenerated West Point, purified and strengthened by the people.

We should be perfectly satisfied if the West Point buildings and grounds could be converted into a hospital or infirmary, and efforts made to induce our colleges to introduce the art of war among the arts and sciences they teach. The idea that boys of one school are permitted to form a class out of which all the officers of a great army shall come—that, because they happen to be friends of Congressmen, they shall be educated for nothing and graduate into command, while Yale boys and Harvard boys are compelled to go down into the ranks and serve, is unjust. We maintain that it does not create a military spirit. It rather creates a military class—a small, narrow-minded aristocracy—growing more and more ignorant and exclusive every year—and as apt to fail in the hour of trial as remain true to the country. We do not imagine, however, that any steps will be taken toward this end. We have got West Point, and must make the best of it, and we do not see any better way than by following the report of the Committee. We do not indorse the recommendation to increase the number of cadets, nor do we see any propriety in raising the standard of scholarship. If the Government is disposed to teach the boys anything, it might as well teach them grammar and geography. Grammar especially might be advantageously studied—for some of the worst writing in the war has come from West Point. Sherman seems to be the only military man who has shown more than ordinary powers in that respect. Competitive examinations would make the appointments fairer; but we have no idea that the Congressmen are going to surrender their patronage. We also agree that when students show themselves helplessly stupid they should be dismissed. It makes little difference whether the superintendent is selected from the engineers or not; but it seems to be fair that one branch of the service should have as many rights as another. It is very wrong to "haze," and we are glad the Board condemns it. These boys have enough of that when they assume command in the army. As to whether the boys should wear whiskers or not, we can scarcely say. It seems reasonable to think that if Providence gives us beards He intends us to keep them; but we suppose it is a mere matter of taste, and that men can fight as well with whiskers as without them.

The whole report is worthy of attention. It shows us just what West Point is, and tells us how best we can manage the luxury. The war will certainly compel a reorganization; and in this work Congress will most probably consult those who have owned and managed the concern for the last fifty years. In the mean time, let our other colleges give attention to military learning, and when another war comes fear it

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